



I will make you
fish for people

MATTHEW 4:19

Je vous ferai

PÊCHEUR
D'HOMME

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Postlude It is our tradition to remain seated for the postlude. If you need to leave we ask that you do so reverently. This tradition developed as a result of our livestream. We want anyone viewing to be able to listen to the postlude without unnecessary distraction. Thank you.

Offerings Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The 10:30AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Currently, we are working to secure volunteer staff for the Nursery. Carrie Oberholtzer is coordinating a schedule. Please contact the office to volunteer.

Today's Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God in memory of Dr. Mahlon Leiphart who passed away October 2, 2022, by his church family.



You may get information regarding closures at our website www.stpaulsyork.org or on our Facebook page St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

*Wearing a mask while in worship is optional, recommended or required based on the CDC guidelines. Green/Optional, Yellow/Recommended, Red/Required. **The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking. Disposable masks are available at the entrance to the church nave.***

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 22, 2023
Holy Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30AM

PRELUDE

Come My Way, My Truth, My Life

Jacob Weber

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☐ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☐ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

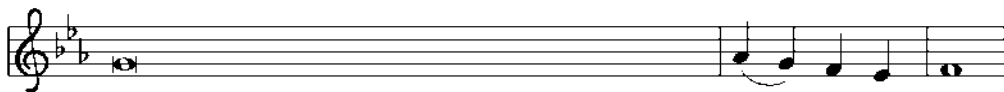
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



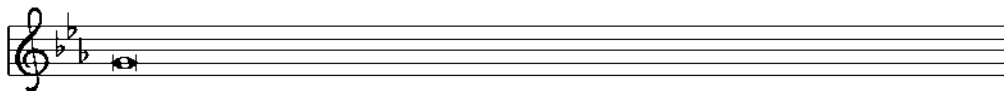
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



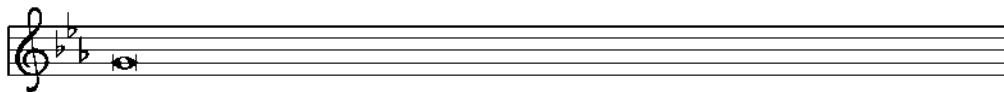
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

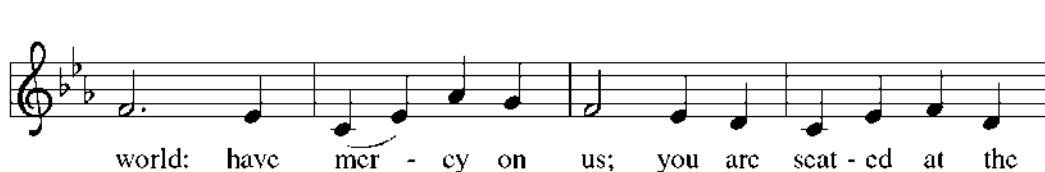
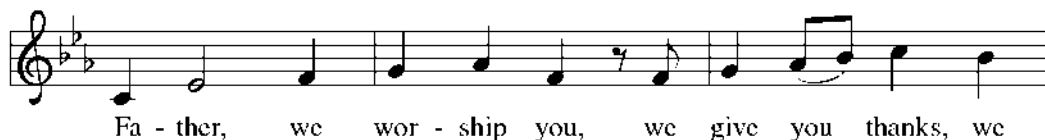
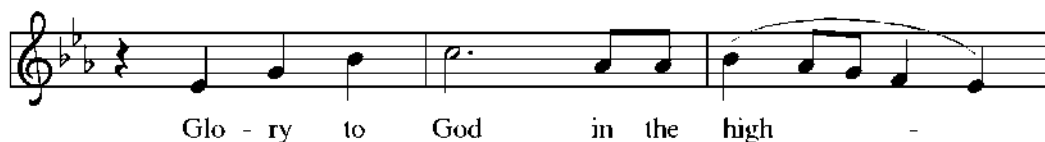


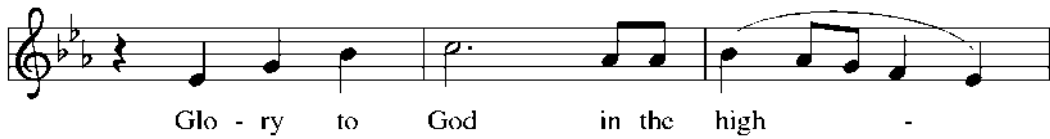
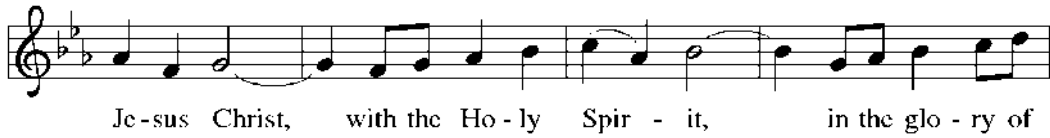
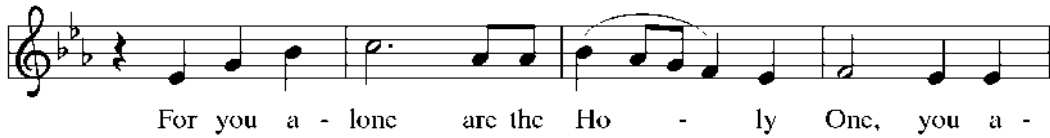
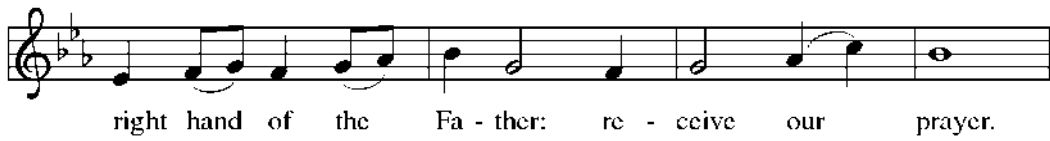
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

(back cover)

PSALMODY

Psalm 27:1, 4-9 *spoken responsively by whole verse*

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I | be afraid?

⁴ **and though war should rise | up against me,***

yet will I put my | trust in him.

⁵ One thing have I asked of the LORD; one | thing I seek;*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days | of my life;

⁶ **to behold the fair beauty | of the LORD***

and to seek him | in his temple.

⁷ For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe | in his shelter;*

he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high up- | on a rock.

⁸ **Even now he lifts | up my head***

above my enemies | round about me.

⁹ Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds | of great gladness;*

I will sing and make music | to the LORD.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 *(back cover)*

Stand

VERSE

Sung by all



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

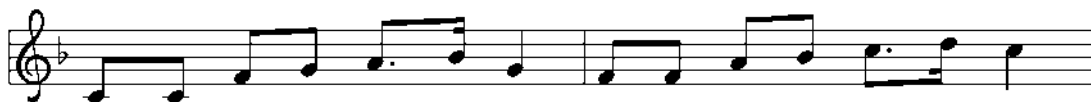
SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

In a Lowly Manger Born (ELW 718)



1 In a low - ly man - ger born, hum - ble life be - gun in scorn;
2 Vis - it - ing the lone and lost, stead - y - ing the tem - pest - tossed,
3 Then, to res - cue you and me, Je - sus died up - on the tree.



un - der Jo - seph's watch - ful eye, Je - sus grew as you and I;
giv - ing of him - self in love, call - ing minds to things a - bove.
See in him God's love re - vealed; by his pas - sion we are healed.



knew the suf - f'rings of the weak, knew the pa - tience of the meek,
Sin - ners glad - ly hear his call; pub - li - cans be - fore him fall,
Now he lives in glo - ry bright, lives a - gain in pow'r and might;



hun - gered as but poor folk can; this is he. Be - hold the man!
for in him new life be - gan; this is he. Be - hold the man!
come and take the path he trod, son of Mar - y, Son of God.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Lord, make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, are ill, or are isolated and lonely. (*Especially we pray for Shirley Thornton, Nancy Smith, Marc Mione, Mindy Cook & infant son Winston, Joan Langheine, Wayne Umlandt, Krista Troxell, Hugh Miller, Maria Laczkoskie, Mary Buler, Marcie Walker, Bonnie Schmidt, Gary Bilbie, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Claudel, Kristine Cross, Rachel Barnes, and Courtney Snell*) Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Sit

OFFERTORY ANTHEM 10:30 AM

Chancel Choir

Arise, Shine; for Your Light has Come

Mark Bender

Stand
DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
L.M.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our
time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake
of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE *Sung by Pastor and congregation*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *Sung by all.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

FRACTION RITE *A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI *Sung by all.*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit *The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).*
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6. Consume the communion host.*
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.*
- 8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 10. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

COMMUNION HYMN

When a Star is Shining (ACS 915) next page

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation (ELW 654) following pages

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

Michael Costello

When a Star Is Shining



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"
guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,
show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.



Food Pantry—January

Items needed: CANNED FRUIT, Rice, beans, Tomato sauce, pasta, mashed potato mix, gravy and stuffing mix for the holidays. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs

Sunday, January 22

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
 9:15 AM Ad Hoc Committee-Ushering-Community Rm.
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 11:30 AM Benevolence Committee—Christ Hall
 2:00 PM YMTA Honors Recital
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, January 23

7:00 PM Mutual Ministry
 7:00 PM Worship & Arts—Good Shepherd Rm.

Tuesday, January 24

9:30 AM Pantry
 12:30 PM Christian Ed Mtg—ZOOM
 6:00 PM CREATE—Art, Crafts and Music for Children age 3 through grade 6
 6:00 PM Property Committee

Wednesday, January 25

10:30 AM Scripture Study

Thursday, January 26

6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 29

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
01/22	8:00 AM	Jennifer Ports	Ken Hinkle	John Monk		Jeff & Rose Reise	Alex Bastian, Michael Poster	Lois Ann Schroeder, Kathy Monk
01/22	10:30 AM	Aaron Jacobs	Larry Moore	Judy McKee	Sandy Dickensheets	Tony Cave, Sandy Dickensheets	Kem Vaught, Larry Becker, *Steve Heistand, Dan Garber	Janet & Larry Moore

News and Updates January 22, 2023

The elementary children raised \$930.03 for God's Global Barnyard. Thank you to everyone who contributed in support of the children. They will be reporting back on what animals they will be providing.

First meeting for traveling to Tanzania to our sister congregation in June of 2024 was held on Wednesday evening. If you are interested but couldn't attend last week's meeting please contact Pastor Tom McKee.

The Benevolence Committee meets today as they begin their work. Please be thinking of worthy projects to be funded in 2024. Applications will be available April 1.

A New Members Class will be conducted during the 5 Sundays of Lent, Feb. 26-March 26, at 9:15 AM in the Lower Level Community Room.

A Senior Members Luncheon will be held Ash Wednesday sponsored by the Witness Committee. Ash Wednesday liturgy will be held at 11:00 AM with the luncheon to follow in Christ Hall. The Committee will need assistance in providing transportation for several of our homebound members. Please contact Earline Jones if you can assist.

Church Offering Envelopes are ready for you to pick up in the Springettsbury Hallway

2023 Calendars are available. Please make any donation. All proceeds go towards the purchase of a canopy for the Food Pantry.

Flower Chart The 2023 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is **\$35 per vase**

The St. Paul's Dinner Groups will be starting back up during the months of April and May. They are a great way to get better acquainted with our church friends over a casual meal. Look for the sign-up sheet at the Springettsbury entrance.

Adult Sunday Education 9:15 AM Christ Hall—"Who Do You Say That I Am?" Join us as we discuss "The Name Above All Names", "Images of the Living God", and "Called to Confess Christ". This 13-week session will help you navigate the scriptures and the references to Christ Our Savior and Lord.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	presch.stpaulsyork.com

Following the incredible snowfall in Buffalo New York a regional news station aired a story about a neighborhood auto body shop, and the increased volume of work generated through automobiles colliding with one another during inclement weather conditions. It seems that snow and ice on the road ways as well as the diminished sight lines created by giant snow banks work out in their advantage. Customers want vehicles repaired quickly. The auto body shop owner interviewed for the news story commented that during seasons like this when collisions are frequent they work seven days a week trying to keep up with the demand.

Collision happens when two things come together that are not in sync with one another. The dictionary definition, “The conflict of opposed ideas, wishes, attitudes, etc.: a collision of interests. Most automobile owners who find their vehicle a piece of mangled metal would prefer a collision of interests rather than a collision of fenders, hoods, bumpers, and trunks. And even if insurance will cover the financial cost of it all, the headache, inconvenience, and frustration make the entire experience even more draining.

Costly collision is born out of the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of earth colliding. That’s what is happening in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali in the wake of Jesus’ presence. His appearance in the region north of Jerusalem and on the North West shore of the Sea of Galilee is causing conflict to the ideas and interests of those established in the region. John the Baptizer is arrested and put in jail. We heard John’s subversive message week before last when he called out to people living on the edge of society to “Repent and be baptized.” His message got the religious people in charge so worked up that they needed to go out and see and hear for themselves the radical message; a message that collided with theirs, a message that pointed to one who was to come, “*The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*” That radical message collided with their message and so John the Baptizer is arrested and jailed in hopes to put him out of commission and to silence him.

But the headache, inconvenience and frustration that John’s preaching has caused is nothing compared with Jesus’ preaching, proclaiming the kingdom of heaven has come near, precisely because as the Son of God he has come near. He is present. The kingdom is here because Jesus is here. And not only is he here, but he is calling us to follow.

“Follow me” he says to regional fishermen in the seaside villages by Lake Galilee. “I will make you fish for people. And *“immediately they left their nets and followed him.”*

I often wonder what it must have been like for old man Zebedee to go home after work that day without his two sons, his fishing partners, and most likely without any fish. The collision that must have transpired between Mrs. Zebedee and Mr. Zebedee when she finds out that her boys have dropped the nets and have followed the itinerant teacher, preacher, healer, Jesus. It must have been something like going home and telling your significant other that you totaled the car into an ice bank!

Jesus’ call to follow confronts us where we are, in the midst of what we are doing, at an inconvenient time. Jesus confronts fishermen and tells them that they will fish for people. When Jesus confronted farmers, perhaps he challenged them to plant the seed of the gospel. Or fellow carpenters may have been invited to build the community of faith. Jesus calls us this morning to follow him. He confronts us in our 21st century lives encompassing a wide range of occupations and vocations;

Preachers proclaim the good news
Doctors heal the suffering ones
Educators teach the loving purpose
Truck drivers haul and deliver mercy
Plumbers keep the good news flowing
Accountants track productivity
Electricians shed light on the path
Nurses patiently deliver caring
Attorneys work for justice
Chefs feed the hungry
Secretaries prepare for the unexpected, delayed, misplaced and lost segments of the
community
Firefighters extinguish the burning passions of the world.

Jesus calls each of us to follow. We don't have to know anything about fishing nets, or trimming sails, or port or starboard, or how to hold the rudder or what kind of fish there are in the lake. He calls us to follow where we are, doing what it is that we do, using the skills and gifts that we have been given. And he calls us to specialized areas that may seem weird or unknown to us. But God calls. You might even give yourself a little slack and relax, you don't necessarily have to fish for people. I think you need to love them instead. You need to cast the net of God's love, mercy, forgiveness and grace as far and wide as you can in the occupation or vocation in which you find yourself. And when you do, you may very well discover a collision of ideas, wishes, and or attitudes. God's love in Christ Jesus regularly collides with the world's desire for self-serving self-centered action. Jesus' call to those first disciples moved them into relationship with Jesus, a new relationship with one another, and sent them out to proclaim a message of future promise. This from a bunch of guys who worked in concrete tangibles, like fish! Imagine what is possible among us gathered here this morning.

Costly collision, that's what happens when heaven breaks into earth. That's what is happening here this morning in the presence of Jesus. He calls us to follow. He wants disciples to proclaim, heal, teach, drive, flow, illumine, deliver, track, work, feed, seek, find, welcome, and put out the raging fires that threaten life, your life and mine.

In Christ's love for us he collided with those seeking power and prestige, position and title. The heavens thundered and the earth rumbled and Jesus died on Calvary's tree. This collision is rarely mentioned on regional news or in local shops. It is the story of love so deep and wide and forgiving and merciful that there are some who try to avoid it at all costs. But occasionally weather conditions will be in our favor and we will collide with someone who desperately needs to hear that there is a way forward. Jesus says "Come follow me." Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Psalms 27:1, 4-9**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to

proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and
shadow of death
light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Next Sunday's Readings: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12.

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